



Iraqi Special Forces making strides

Story and photos by Spc. James P. Hunter
MNC-I PAO

It is a battle Iraqis deal with daily. The uncertainty of surviving in the neighborhoods they grew up in is unsettling. Iraqis want the certainty of knowing that their families are safe.

The Soldiers of the Iraqi Special Operations Forces Brigade believe they have the capabilities to defeat the terrorists who are attempting to destabilize Iraq, said an Iraqi ISOF instructor.

The ISOF Brigade Soldiers continue to specialize and hone the combat skills that make the brigade a driving force in Iraq's campaign for freedom.

The Iraqis continued their progress when nine ISOF Soldiers graduated from the Convoy Security Course Feb. 9.

As the Iraqis continue to train, they move closer to securing their country's freedom.

Initially, U.S. Army Special Forces directly trained the ISOF. From those Soldiers, the U.S. SF trainers then selected the best-qualified Iraqi Soldiers to become instructors and teach the Special Operations coursework to their fellow Iraqis.



Iraqi Special Operations Forces Soldiers advance forward on a target, demonstrating their convoy security capabilities Feb. 9. The Soldiers feel they have the capabilities to defeat terrorists who are attempting to destabilize Iraq.

Now, the American SF Soldiers serve as advisers to the ISOF Brigade on training and operations, helping the Iraqi Soldiers on things they can sustain and improve upon, said one of the ISOF's U.S. advisers,

a captain from the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force – Arabian Peninsula.

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Camp Victory Three-day forecast

Friday



Sunny
High: 72 F
Low: 47 F

Saturday



Sunny
High: 73 F
Low: 47 F

Sunday



Sunny
High: 77 F
Low: 52 F

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Experience on the road is the best training for convoys

Story and photo by Lance Cpl. Drew Hendricks
MNC-I PAO

Experience is the key factor to the success of a convoy, according to Sgt. Samuel R. Demelo, 392nd Chemical Company Recon, who has been running convoys day and night since he arrived in theatre.

"The training and the standard operating procedures help, but most things just come from being on the street," said Demelo.

Demelo and his gunner, Spc. Adam Dean, also with the 392nd, perform their duties as if they were the most basic of instincts.

"All I have to do is tap him on the leg or yell out a direction and he knows what I need him to do," said Demelo. "All he has to do is yell out a direction and I know exactly what he wants me to do."

According to Dean, in order to be successful at convoys you have to be an assertive driver.



Sgt. Samuel R. Demelo, 392nd Chemical Company Recon, yells out orders to his gunner Spc. Adam Dean as the convoy begins to roll on another mission.

"If they get in your way, you move them out of the way," said Dean.

Even though they have to be aggressive, Demelo and Dean both say that the rifle is a last resort.

Motorists know the rules concerning convoys. If they don't the gunners act as traffic directors preventing vehicles from coming too close or endangering the convoy or themselves, according to Demelo.

The 392nd Chemical Company Recon is an Arkansas reserve unit that is currently training active duty soldiers to take their place running convoys when they leave.

"We are not to sure when we are leaving but we train with these guys every day," said Demelo. "It's hard work but it keeps us on top of our game."

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The winner of each monthly tournament will receive a custom T-shirt.

CONTACT INFORMATION: For information or to sign up for February's tournament call or email:

SGT Joseph Mahoney
DSN: 822-2065
joseph.mahoney@iraq.centcom.mil (on Global)



TIME: 8 p.m.

PLACE: MWR BLDG 124

TOURNAMENT DATES:

last Monday of every month

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TRAINING

"The course gives the Soldiers the ability to protect themselves on the roadway and protect convoys," the U.S. captain said. "As we know, convoys are the most dangerous parts of being in Iraq."

Throughout the course, the Iraqi Soldiers learn a variety of skills, starting with basic marksmanship and weapons familiarization.

They then learn infantry movement tactics, such as advancing toward an objective and breaking contact with the enemy. The Soldiers then learn to operate Humvees.

Finally, they put all the training together, mount weapons on the vehicles and conduct a mounted tactical movement.

An Iraqi ISOF instructor said that his goal as an instructor is to proficiently train his students, making them skilled Soldiers who are ready to defeat the enemy.

"God willing, we will do it. We will fight terrorism, fight the Saddamists, and gain the freedom of Iraq," he said. "We are Iraqi Special Forces. We shall go on many missions and all the students will be trained and ready to fight in the streets."



Top: Iraqi Special Operations Forces Soldiers show their marksmanship capabilities during their Convoy Security Course graduation Feb. 9. Bottom: An ISOF Soldier mounts a weapon on an armored vehicle. The Convoy Security Course teaches Iraqis basic marksmanship, weapons familiarization, how to operate Humvees and conduct a mounted tactical movement.

Iraqi Soldiers are ready to conduct their own convoy operations without the supervision of American forces, said the U.S. captain serving as an ISOF adviser. The Soldiers are trained, and equipped with modern weapons and armored vehicles. They are skilled, and ready to fight terrorism to take back their country.

Once they are given a mission, they coordinate everything, he said. The Soldiers write their own operation order, conduct the mission and survive on their own.

"This training is vital," the U.S. captain said. "Not only to survival on the road but to the overall mission."

"Their passion for what they do, their love for their country and their desire to have it back is unparalleled," he said. "In Iraq their people take nothing for granted. Their Soldiers know what is at risk everyday in their lives and for their families."

The Iraqi ISOF instructor said his overall goal for the Iraqi special operations is to protect their freedom and the people of Iraq.

"For God, for country, and for freedom. Long live Iraq!" he strongly urged.



TAX SERVICES WE PROVIDE

Recently, the Client Services team has received several questions regarding taxes and what kind of service we offer. Active duty Soldiers are not required to file for taxes while deployed in a combat zone. What this means is that for those who are deployed here in Iraq, the IRS automatically extends the deadlines for filing tax returns, paying taxes, filing claims for refund and other actions regarding federal income tax. Reservists and civilians do not automatically qualify for the extension and should consult our tax assistant, one of our attorneys or the website www.irs.gov.

We understand that some wish to go ahead and file their taxes anyway. We will assist you in executing a power of attorney for filing taxes. Client Services also has someone to assist you in filing your taxes online and to answer any questions you may have along the way. If you want to file, have your paperwork including all W2s and statements of income from other sources like bank account interest. To this date, Client Services is not a fully operational tax center like one you would see at your home station. Our goal is to make the process as easy as possible for those who want to file taxes and offer as much assistance as we can. Please contact us if you have further questions. DSN 822-2864

Hours of Operation:

Sat. – Thurs. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., Fri. 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.


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March 3, 2006: 5 – 5:30 p.m.

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Chaplain's Corner

What God Wants

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.
2 Chronicles 7:14 (NIV).

The Army – I cannot speak for the Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, or any of our allies – teaches a cookbook approach to addressing problems or performing common tasks. When I was a combat engineer, the engineer's bible, the FM 5-34, gave you steps to plan anything and everything having to do with the engineers. Do these steps and you will have a floating bridge. Do those steps and you will have planned and put a mine field in place. Follow this set of numbered steps and the bridge abutment will be destroyed.

In the Scripture, God uses the cookbook approach when He speaks directly to

you and me. "You and me," that is, if you have made the decision to be one of His Children! He is not talking to non-believers. He is talking to those "who are called by my name." The non-believers and fence sitters are not included in this group. Oh, He would dearly love them to be! But He is speaking to those that follow Him.

Isn't it interesting to note that God wants the humble? After all, they will listen. The proud will not listen. They will stride in, like the Pharisee into the temple, letting anyone who would listen, know how righteous he was.

And what does God want from us? He wants us to "pray and seek my face." Now some folks think praying is high toned preacher talk, like they hear in church – often putting them to sleep. Praying is plain speech, from the heart telling God how it really is with our lives. No holds barred, like a wet cold mackerel across the chops. Praying is something that a man or woman owns and is involved

with daily. It calls a spade a spade. God already knows your thoughts. Speak your mind and let Him help you with cleaning up your words! If you mean what you say, then you're seeking God and He will honor your words! He did mine and He will honor yours, as well.

Then what does He want? To turn from your ways to His ways – that's what He wants. Some can stop immediately and do immediately what God wants and that's a good thing. But, others are like a huge oil tanker that ever so gradually begins the turning process and may take a hundred miles to change directions. The end result is the same. A life is changed and God is glorified! And that is a good thing, too!

Now notice the benefits: God will hear, God will forgive, and God will heal their land. Now I wonder what would happen, if those who are called by His Name **would follow this cook book recipe and do what He wants.** Not everyone will heed this call, but you could. How about it?

Soldiers sing their stress away in Iraq

Story and photo by Pfc. Luke Allen

1st BCT PAO, 10th Mtn. Div.

Combat stress is something most Soldiers encounter on a deployment and 10th Mountain Division Soldiers are no exception.

"Open Mic Night" gives Soldiers a chance to unwind each Thursday at the Scorpion Morale, Welfare and Recreation Center, Camp Liberty.

"There's other things that we do to relax, like playing pool and video games, but this is definitely the most fun," said Pvt. William Babineau, Fires Support Element, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mtn. Div.

"We're just enjoying the music and festivities, having a good laugh and getting the stress off our shoulders," said Babineau, who performed Feb. 16.

Some of the songs available for the amateur singers to perform include John Mayer's "Your body is a wonderland;" "When I'm gone" by 3 Doors Down; and of course, no night would be complete without someone belting out Lee Greenwood's "Proud to be



Staff Sgt. Renee Newfrock, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 10th Mountain Division, hits a high note while singing a song by country music star Shania Twain Feb. 16.

an American." There is no limit to the style of music on hand, with a selection ranging from rock, country, pop and rap to 80's new wave.

Although not everyone performing is a singer in the true sense of the word, the Soldiers seem to enjoy the live entertainment. "Everybody's watching you, so if you mess up, people are going to know, but you've got to go up there and have a good time (and) keep a smile on your face while doing it," said Babineau.

Damien Bland, events coordinator, Scorpion MWR, said that karaoke night always has a good turnout.

"Open Mic Night" is the craziest event because of the Soldiers. They like to come up here and do all kinds of dances and get big groups singing and dancing on stage.

We just leave it open for whatever they want. They seem to enjoy it, and I enjoy watching them," said Bland.

The MWR center provides other entertainment for Soldiers, including an Internet café, TV rooms, phone centers and movie

nights.

Events like karaoke night provide Soldiers an opportunity to "live out their dreams while in a combat zone," said Bland. Tournaments are also a big attraction at the center and include chess matches, card games, ping pong matches and billiards.

"This is just a small part of the freedom we're actually here to protect. You have to give up a lot to be here and serve our country back home, but the MWR facilities really present a way that Soldiers can get a small piece of that freedom back," said Pfc. Michael Parris, of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st BCT, 10th Mtn. Div.

"You can kind of get away from the military a little, calm down and be yourself."

Operating hours

Coalition Cafe

Breakfast 5:30 - 8:30 a.m.
Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Dinner 5:30 - 8 p.m.
Midnight Dining 11 p.m. - 1 a.m.

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Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
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Everyday 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Fitness Center

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Chapel (Bldg. 31)

Sunday:

Protestant Service 7 and 8:45 a.m.
Catholic Mass 10:30 a.m.
Gospel Service Noon
Mormon (LDS) 2 p.m.
Episcopal 4 p.m.
Full Life Service 6 p.m.

Saturday:

7th Day Adventist 11 a.m.
Catholic Mass 8 p.m.
Mini-Chapel (Bldg. 2)

Friday:

Jewish Service 6:30 p.m.
Eastern Orthodox services:

Saturday:

Vespers 5 p.m.
Confession 5:30 p.m.
Bible Study 7 p.m.

Sunday:

Divine Liturgy 9 a.m.

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Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday - 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sunday 1 - 5 p.m.

Golby Troop Medical Clinic

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Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - noon
Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m. - noon

Dental Sick Call:

Monday - Friday 7:30 - 10:30 a.m.
Saturday 9 - 10:30 a.m.

Mental Health Clinic:

Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. - noon

Post Deployment Health Briefings:


Monday - Friday 1 p.m.

Pharmacy:

Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - noon
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Client Services

Saturday - Thursday 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
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line...




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- **DON'T WALK ALONE**, even to the showers ! Use a trusted battle buddy.
- Carry a flashlight.
- Don't take shortcuts through deserted or dark areas.
- The use of alcohol and drugs are not authorized; don't let it be an excuse.
- If someone approaches you and you feel threatened, SHOUT for HELP and Immediately Report it to **MILITARY POLICE**, 24 / 7, at **DSN: 822-4790 IRAQNA: 0790-193-2481** or CID.

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DEATH.**



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own. GO Home Alive!**

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Is your loved one deployed in support of Multi National Corps-Iraq? Would you like to write him or her a letter? Send them to brian.anderson@iraq.centcom.mil

Victory Times welcomes columns, commentaries, articles and letters from our readers. Send submissions or comments to brian.anderson@iraq.centcom.mil.

We reserve the right to edit for security, accuracy, propriety, policy, clarity and space.

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This driver was wearing his seat belt, driving within the speed limit and he was in his proper lane.



The driver of this vehicle had his life tragically altered by a reckless driver.
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